Saitou Chiho Short Story Series 7

Lilac Nocturne

Saitou Chiho

Sho Comi Flower Comics

Lilac Nocturne

Storm in Heaven

www.stormineaven.net

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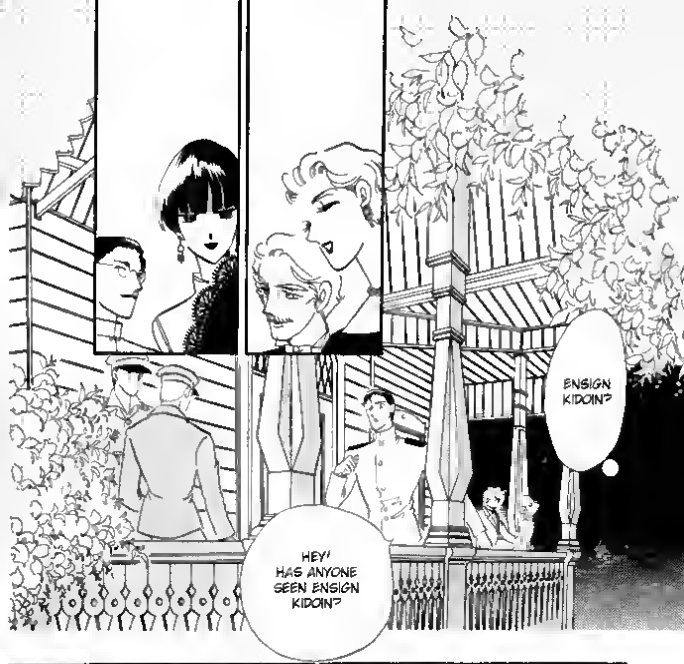
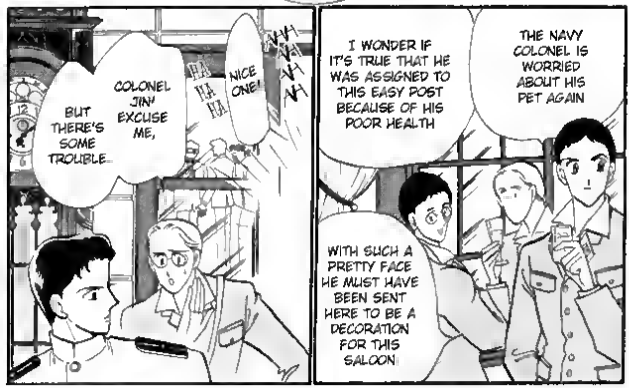
This side story takes place after the events of Waltzing wa Shiroi Prose de (4 vols). The next entry in the Waltzing storyline, after this, is Magnolia Waltzing (3 vols). The Waltzing storyline then finishes with the side story Tuberose Serenade.

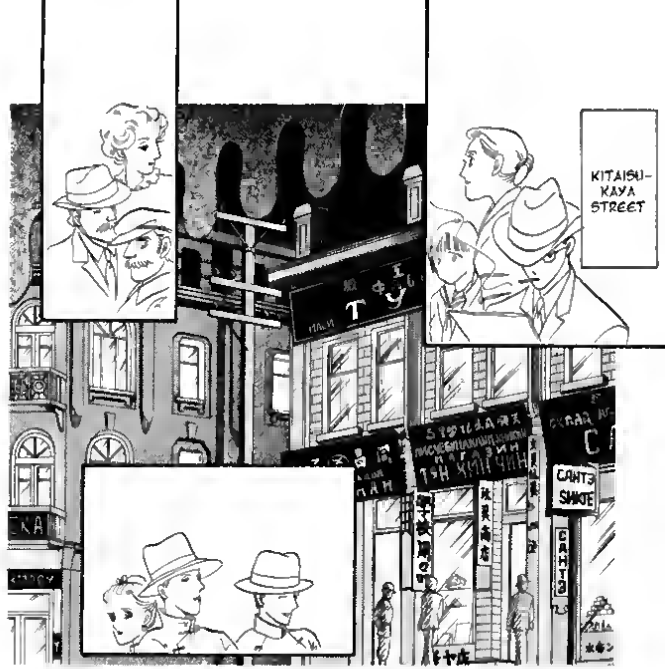
*Note: 1937

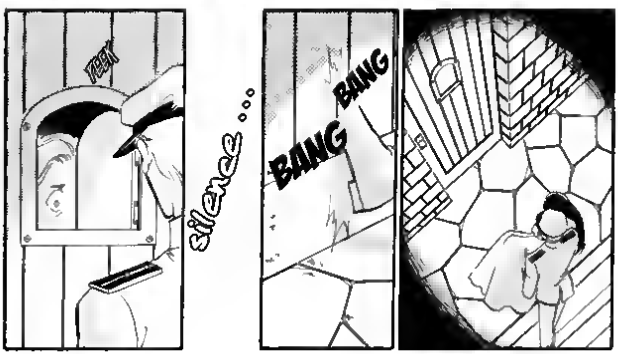
Splish
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
YOU'RE ALIVE, AREN'T YOU?


ENSIGN KIDOIN?
HEY! HAS ANYONE SEEN ENSIGN KIDOIN?


THE NAVY COLONEL IS WORRIED ABOUT HIS PET AGAIN
I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE THAT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS EASY POST BECAUSE OF HIS POOR HEALTH
WITH SUCH A PRETTY FACE HE MUST HAVE BEEN SENT HERE TO BE A DECORATION FOR THIS SALOON
NICE ONE!
COLONEL JIN! EXCUSE ME,
BUT THERE'S SOME TROUBLE...

IS THE DISTANT COUSIN OF PUYI, THE EMPEROR OF MANCHUKUO.
IMPERIAL PRINCESS LI XIANG...
PRINCESS LI XIANG
SHE RAN OUT ON HER WEDDING TO DUKE KUJOU
THIS COUNTRY WHICH JAPAN'S KANTO ARMY CREATED IS ACTUALLY NOTHING MORE THAN A COLONY - A CHINA RULED BY JAPAN.
IS A KINGDOM THAT IS LIKE AN ILLUSORY SUMMER NIGHT SKY A KINGDOM THAT EXISTED FOR A MERE 17 YEARS
AND THIS, MANCHUKUO...
PUSHED FOR THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS AND A JAPANESE NOBLEMAN
IN ORDER TO CONCEAL THIS FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE KANTO ARMY
UNDER THE TYRANNICAL RULE OF THE ARMY, THE CHINESE WERE FURIOUS AND DISTRAUGHT


KITAISU-
KAYA
STREET
CAN'T
SMOKE


TEEK
silence ...
BANG
BANG

I NEED DOCTOR GAMLIN TO ATTEND TO AN EMERGENCY PATIENT
I'M ENSIGN MASAOMI KIDOIN OF THE IMPERIAL NAVY
!
THE IMPERIAL NAVY
LET ME GO! IT'S NOTHING! I'M FINE!
I JUST FELL INTO THE RIVER!
I'M PERFECTLY FINE, SO I'M GOING HOME!
SWIP
!

HEY
pound
pound
pound
OH!
COUGH COUGH
COUGH
THIS GIRL...
sdrsh
THERE MUST BE A GOOD REASON FOR THIS, EH?
OTHER-WISE, KIDOIN.
YOU WOULD NEVER COME TO AN UNLI-CENSED DOCTOR LIKE ME,
RIGHT?

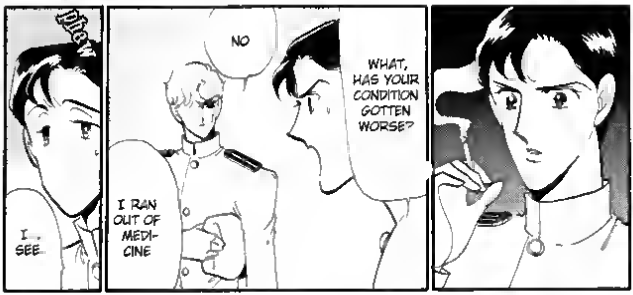
I JUST PICKED HER OUT OF THE SUNGARI RIVER
AND YOU'RE THE ONLY GOOD DOCTOR I KNOW AROUND HERE
NO IDEA—
HM-MM?
AND HAS IT STARTED WORK-ING?
IT'S THE USUAL SPECIAL-FORMULA MEDICINE
THIS IS SOME-THING ONLY I, YOUR RESIDENT RUSSIAN, CAN MAKE
(THANKS) SPASIBA!
PAT PAT
DON'T TELL ME SHE RAN AWAY FROM A WEDDING?
SHE'S WEARING A CHINESE WEDDING DRESS OF VERY GOOD QUALITY
BUT SHE'S CHINESE, RIGHT?
THIS GIRL SPEAKS JAPANESE WELL,
BEATS ME

A MICRO-COSM OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS HARPIN
TONIGHT IS QUITE LIKE...
AND AN EXILED RUSSIAN.
A JAPA-NESE MILITARY OFFICER,
A RUNAWAY CHINESE GIRL ON THE VERGE OF DEATH.
DOCTOR?
THIS IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE!
HOSPIT-ALIZED? WE DON'T DO THAT HERE!
SLAM
CON-SIDER HER HOSPITAL-IZED.
I'M LEAV-ING!
HOLD ON, WAIT A MOM-ENT!
WHAT ABOUT THIS GIRL?

TO MAKE A POISON ...
THAT'S NOT VERY PAINFUL, AND WOULD LET ME DIE QUICKLY...
PLEA-SE...
USE THIS TO MAKE A DRUG FOR ME.

AH ENSIGN KIDOIN
I WOULD HAVE PRE-FERRED IT IF YOU HAD COME BACK SOONER

SO,
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
chatter chatter
YAWN
YEAH, SOMETHING YOU'D ONLY EXPECT
PRINCESS LI XIANG RESISTED THE MARRIAGE AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE SUNGARI FOUR HOURS AGO
PEOPLE WOULD GET REALLY WORKED UP ABOUT THIS IF IT LEAKED OUT.
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE A GROUP OF ANTI-JAPANESE CHINESE NATIVES LED HER AWAY
BY THE WAY,
WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO BEFORE?
YOU GOT A GIRL?
—I—
WENT TO THE DOCTOR


I... SEE...
I RAN OUT OF MEDI-CINE
NO
WHAT, HAS YOUR CONDITION GOTTEN WORSE?

I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN THE MILITARY IN THE FIRST PLACE
HOWEVER, PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO BE A REASON TO TREAT ME INDUL-GENTLY
I'M NOTHING BUT A BURDEN
I'M SOR-RY...

BANG
BANG
BANG

BUT I CAN'T DO ANY-THING
BUT WORRY ABOUT YOU...

BAM
OFFICER! THE DOCTOR'S AT HOME AT NIGHT!
PLEASE, YOU MUSTN'T, I SAID!
...I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD COME
ENSIGN KIDOIN
PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT.

SHOCK
I HEARD...
THAT THE CORPSES OF THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.
.....
THE ONES SO FAR ARE TWO UNIDENTIFIED MEN
AND YOUR HANDMAIDEN, MEI LING

PRINCESS LI XIANG.
Ahhh?
Waah!
GULP
WHAT... ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF I'M LI XIANG?
IT WOULD BE A GREAT VICTORY FOR YOU IF YOU HAND ME OVER TO THE ARMY, WOULDN'T IT?
MEI LING WAS...
MY JAPANESE TEACHER
SHE WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR ME.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Sip

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'VE NO INTENTION OF HANDING YOU OVER
DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID!
WHAT'S IN IT?
POISON?
YOU'RE LYING...
WHERE DID YOU GET THE POISON?!
I WON'T BE TRICKED...
BY A JAPANESE SOLDIER!
I HAD THE DOCTOR MAKE IT FOR ME!

IS THAT SO
FROM THE DOC-TOR
GULP
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN GETTING PROMOTED
YOU'RE FREE TO GO

YOU FOOL! SPIT IT OUT!
WHY DID YOU...
I'LL... FEEL DROWSY IN A MOMENT
THIS ISN'T POISON
IT'S A SEDATIVE
THE DOCTOR'S SUCH A GOOD CON MAN
FOR YOU, SOMEONE LONGING FOR DEATH, HE MADE A SLEEPING DRUG...
AND FOR ME, SOMEONE ON THE VERGE OF DEATH...
HE MADE ME TAKE A STOMACH MEDICINE, SAYING IT WORKED ON INCURABLE DISEASES
SNIVEL
HE'S ALWAYS RIPPING ME OFF
WHILE I'M SLEEPING HERE...
RUN AWAY
FARE-WELL, PRINCESS LI XIANG

WAS THAT REALLY A SEDATIVE?
IF IT REALLY WAS POISON AND HE JUST STOPS BREATHING...
HE SAID "INCURABLE DISEASES"
YOU MEAN HE—?

THIS SCAR... ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A TEAR TRACK
...KOTO...
GO, SAGITTO
GO!
LEAVE ON YOUR OWN, ASTER!
I'D SOONER KILL HER THAN LET HER GO WITH YOU!!

HSSHH
I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT YOU
KOTO
I WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS
IF THE ONE WHO KILLS ME IS THE MAN I LOOKED UP TO—
SHOOT ME SHOOT ME FIRST
MY CRUEL BEAUTIFUL FIANCEE
I'VE BEEN SLIGHTED BY HER LOVE FOR ANOTHER MAN
KOTO

I WOULD HAVE KEPT YOU BY MY SIDE NO MATTER WHAT.
IF ONLY THIS BODY HAD A FUTURE.
HOW I WANTED TO CRY TO YOU, "I'M AFRAID."
"I'M SO LONELY. I LONGED FOR YOU."
YOU'LL HAVE NO IDEA...

THIS IS FAREWELL, MY DEAR COUSIN.
IT WAS YOU, BRIGHT SHINING
WHO I HAVE ALWAYS LONGED FOR.
EVEN NOW AFTER A YEAR HAS PASSED

ALMOST LIKE IT'S TREMBLING
THE SOUND OF A PIANO
CARRIED ON THE EVENING BREEZE.
THE SCENT OF LILACS
THIS SCENT

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?
AH...
WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN SLEEPING?
whish

I BEG YOU! I'LL PRETEND TO BE A BOY,
SO PLEASE, LET ME STAY AT YOUR PLACE AS A SERVANT UNTIL THE COMMOTION DIES DOWN!!
OF COURSE, WHEN THE LOOKOUT EASES UP, I'LL LEAVE HARPIN
GET OUT, NOW!
IF I'M CAUGHT, I'LL WIND UP ADMITTING THAT YOU SAVED ME!
GO AHEAD!
I DON'T HAVE ANY-WHERE TO GO.
PLEASE!

A NEW SERVANT?
BOW
ALTHOUGH HE CANNOT SPEAK JAPANESE, HE'S VERY HARD-WORKING
HE'S A CHINESE BOY CALLED MAO MAO
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A NAME LIKE "MAO MAO!"
BESIDES, I'M FLUENT IN JAPANESE!
WELL, I LIKE CATS.*
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP TALKING.
IT'S TO MAKE SURE YOUR COVER ISN'T BLOWN.
*Note: Mao Mao is written using the character meaning 'cat' twice.
ALL THE SAME

ALL RIGHT, READY?
TRY CUTTING THIS TO LOOK LIKE THIS.
WHO KNOWS WHETHER OR NOT SHE CAN ACT LIKE A SERVANT
SHE'S STILL AN IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF THE QING DYNASTY
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SUNK QUITE LOW
CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP
HUH?
WOW!
...WELL DONE!
IS THIS ALL RIGHT?

LOOKS LIKE MAO MAO IS WORKING HARD
YES
I'M VERY MUCH SUR-PRISED MYSELF.
FINDING SUCH A CAPABLE YOUNG ASSISTANT HAS BRIGHTENED YOU UP TOO.
I'M GLAD.
YOU LOOK HEALTHIER LATELY.
I DIDN'T BECOME A NUISANCE TO HIM
I'M SO GLAD

IS FUN, TOO
PASSING EACH DAY LIKE THIS
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL TODAY
AH!
flutter
IF ONLY I DIDN'T REMEMBER THE UNPLEASANT PAST.
EVERY DAY...
swish

with Koto
throb
I DON'T RECALL ASKING YOU TO CLEAN MY ROOM, TOO.
SURPRISE
AH...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE MARRIED
SHE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL

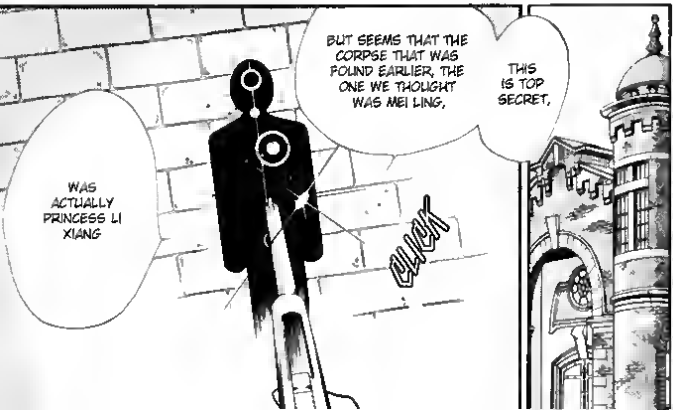
HEY, HOW IS THIS PRONOUNCED?
"KOTO."
THAT'S A MUCH NICER NAME THAN "MAO MAO."
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY WHEN WE'RE ALONE, CALL ME 'KOTO.'
GIVE THAT BACK
OH, ISN'T THIS A PRECIOUS PHOTOGRAPH?
WHY DON'T YOU PUT IT IN THE LIVING ROOM?
I TOLD YOU TO GIVE THAT BACK!
SWING
HERE!
I'M SORRY.

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SEE THIS
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
RUSTLE
HUH
SHE'S ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE NOW
I HEARD THAT THEY HAVE A CHILD, TOO.
SO—
THAT'S CRUEL.
IT'S NO-THING-
BUT SHE KNEW ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?
ABOUT... YOUR ILLNESS, OR...
...SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO HIM IF SHE'D KNOWN...
BUT I WOULDN'T STAND HAVING HER SYMPATHY ALONE...
THAT'S NOT LOVE

THAT'S NOT... TRUE.
THE PAIN OF THE PERSON YOU LOVE... IS YOUR OWN PAIN.
FEELING SYMPATHY IS THE SAME THING AS LOVE...
I... EVERY DAY.
I WANT TO EASE YOUR PAIN, ENSIGN, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE.

I'M NOT IN PAIN
HOW-EVER HARSH THE SOR-ROW,
HUMAN BEINGS GET USED TO IT. THAT'S HOW WE ARE.
LIKE THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN,
WE ACCEPT ANYTHING AND EVERY-THING,
AND REMAIN PEACEFUL ON THE SURFACE
ENSIGN,
ARE YOU NEVER GOING TO FALL FOR ANYONE?
JUST...
MS KOTO AND NO ONE ELSE...?

I'M A COWARD,
AND MY HEART IS SMALL


THIS IS TOP SECRET,
BUT SEEMS THAT THE CORPSE THAT WAS FOUND EARLIER, THE ONE WE THOUGHT WAS MEI LING,
WAS ACTUALLY PRINCESS LI XIANG
CLICK

IT LOOKS LIKE MEI LING IS STILL ALIVE.
THE KANTO ARMY IS HUNTING HER DOWN
HUH?
MEI LING
MEI LING'S A WITNESS SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT HER.
BANG
WORD OF PRINCESS LI XIANG'S DEATH WILL GET OUT...
AND THE ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENT WILL ONLY GET MORE AND MORE FIERCE.
DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION,
THEY MAY VERY WELL KILL HER.
MEI LING?

WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR DINNER TONIGHT
AUNTIE?
LET'S SEE.
THAT GIRL'S... ACTUALLY MEI LING?
MEI LING
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU
FO... GE...
CHATTER
CHATTER

MEI LING, I HEARD THAT YOU DIED...
BUT I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
FO GE... A FRIEND WHO SERVED HER HIGHNESS LI XIANG WITH ME...
I KNEW YOU HAD TO BE ALIVE...
LET'S FIGHT AGAINST THE JAPANESE TOGETHER
AGAINST THE ONES WHO DID SUCH THINGS TO YOU AND HER HIGHNESS...
MEI LING?
MEI LING!
RUN
DID HE SAY MEI LING?

PRINCESS LI XIANG!!
MEI LING, YOU REALLY ARE ..
MY BEST FRIEND.
IF WORST COMES TO WORST, THEN I'LL BE YOUR DECOY.
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE TO FETCH YOU HAVE ARRIVED. PLEASE TRADE CLOTHES WITH ME.
WE HAVE TO HURRY PRINCESS LI XIANG!!
THE PRINCESS IS MISSING!
SHE IS ESCAPED WITH HER MAID!!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
EVER SINCE I WAS SOLD HERE WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN, I WOULD DIE FOR YOUR SAKE, PRINCESS LI XIANG.

PRINCESS LI XIANG!!
I COULDN'T SAVE HER...!
!
GRAB
COME WITH US!
YOU'RE MEI LING, AREN'T YOU?

WAIT A MOMENT!
CALM DOWN, KIDOIN!
KIDOIN!
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE AID YOU PROVIDED TO HER IS A VIOLATION OF MILITARY REGULATIONS.
IF YOU DO ANYTHING MORE...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT NOW?
THE ARMY HAS ALREADY DECIDED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ME! LING
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
I DON'T CARE. EVEN IF THIS IS THE END
--DO AS YOU PLEASE.

KIDOIN!
IS THE ARMY PLANNING TO PIN ITS OWN FAILURE ON ME AND LET ME FALL ALONE?
OH, ENSIGN KIDOIN
ARE YOU A MESSENGER?
IT'S URGENT?
PLEASE GO AHEAD

OH MY, ENSIGN KIDOIN
DID COLONEL JIN SEND YOU HERE TO HELP STAND GUARD?
THE PRINCESS IS SO DOCILE AND WELL-BEHAVED THAT THERE'S REALLY NO NEED
BUT PLEASE, COME IN

PRINCESS LI XIANG'S WEDDING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW NIGHT...
ONCE MORE, IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY
ARE THEY PLANNING ON MAKING HER...
BE PRINCESS LI XIANG'S STAND-IN UNTIL THE VERY END ?!

THA THANK YOU.
WHY- WHY DON'T
WE ALL HAVE A CUP OF TEA
LILAC TEA WOULD BE NICE IT'S THE ONE OVER THERE WITH THE BLUE LID
AND THEN ALLOW ME TO PLAY THE PIANO, TOO!
MY BEST PIECE IS...
THE NOC- TURNE
I OFFER YOU MY MOST SINCERE CONGRATU- LATIONS PRINCESS LI XIANG

ALL RIGHT
PLEASE GO AHEAD
Smile
THANK YOU BUT I'M ON DUTY...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE
WHEN YOU STARTED PLAYING THE PIANO,
MEI LING...
EVERYONE BECAME ENTRANCED...
AND BEFORE LONG...
THIS... THIS IS STRANGE
SOMETHING'S WRONG... GOT TO REPORT...
Fall
Wobble
Wobble

EN...
SIGN

MEI LING...
MEI LING YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY!
YOU'LL GET AWAY SOMEHOW IF YOU GO NOW...
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU CAME TO SEE ME IN THE END
REALLY WANTED TO BE ALONE WITH YOU, ENSIGN!
BE-CAU-SE I...
WAS THAT... THE SLEEP-ING DRUG?
YES I MIXED THE DRUGS I GOT FROM DOCTOR IN WITH THE TEA LEAVES AHEAD OF TIME...

MEI LING!
I'LL STAY HERE
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DO THAT.
DON'T YOU GIVE UP!
IT'S NOT THAT
BEING IN THIS ROOM AT THIS VERY MOMENT
IT'S THE HAPPIEST I'VE EVER BEEN!
IT'S LIKE A PRECIOUS GEM—
I DON'T WANT TO DES-TROY IT.

THERE WON'T BE ANY TIME UNLESS YOU ESCAPE NOW!
STAND UP, MEI LING!
MEI LING!!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
BEING IN THIS COUNTRY BUILT ON LIES... THIS WEDDING, THIS ROOM—
THIS IS MEI LING'S HAPPI-NESS ...?
MEI LING
THIS IS HAPPI-NESS?
FO GE...?
YOU JAPAN-ESE!!
DON'T LAY A HAND ON MEI LING!
KRASH

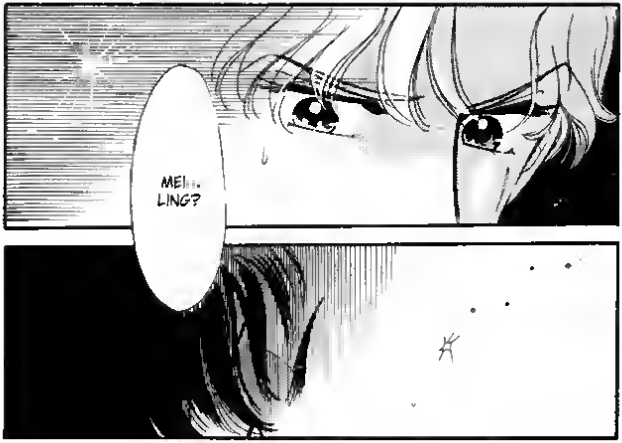
BANG
MEI..
LING?
WHY
....
stagger

I'M FINE
SLIP
EN... SIGN ....
DON'T... DON'T MOVE!
Click
DAMN, IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
CLARE
MEI LING!
slip

YOU... BASTARD.
Aagh!
CLINK
CRA...
...SH
MEI LING!!
HANG ON!!
MEI LING!!

MEI... LING...
IF... ANY-THING...
HURT AT ALL... HOW... STRANGE...
IT DOESN'T...
I'M SO... HAPPY...
THIS TIME... I WAS ABLE TO PROTECT THE PERSON I LOVE...
IT'S LIKE A DREAM...
I'M HAPPY...
THIS... MUST BE THE HAPPIEST MOMENT...
OF MY... LIFE

NO!! MEI LING!!
LOOK RIGHT AT ME!!
I'M NOT... MEI LING.
MY REAL NAME... IS...
SLUMP


MEI...
LING?

"MY REAL NAME...

IS

KOTO KIRIHARA..."

SHE WAS BORN TO A RUINED FAMILY,
AND WAS SOLD OFF AT THE AGE OF TWELVE
SHE WAS SOLD AGAIN AT 14, THIS TIME TO CHINA,
AND AFTER THAT, SHE LIVED AS A CHINESE NATIONAL BY THE NAME MEI LING...
GIVING UP HER REAL NAME...
CALL ME 'KOTO'
SO SHE WAS ACTUALLY JAPANESE...
IN THE END, SHE DIED AS PRINCESS LI XIANG
WHAT A HOPELESS, MISERABLE LOT IN LIFE SHE HAD FOR THOSE 17 YEARS
THE MURDERER WAS ANTI-JAPANESE, A MAN NAMED ZHANG FO GE
THIS IS A REPORT MEANT FOR INTERNAL MILITARY DISTRIBUTION ONLY. DO YOU WANT TO READ IT?
NO
SO WHAT EVEN IF I READ IT...
AS PRINCESS LI XIANG...
SHE'S JUST SLEEPING HERE IN MANCHUKUO,
RIGHT NOW...

WHEN THE SUNGARI IS CLOSED OFF BY WHITE ICE
WHEN THE LILACS SCATTER AND THIS SHORT SUMMER ENDS,

AND I'LL CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR REAL NAME, THE NAME THAT NOBODY KNOWS...
I'LL COME BACK TO THIS ILLUSIVE COUNTRY AND VISIT HER GRAVE

End <Lilac Nocturne>

FLOWER COMICS

紫丁香夜想曲（ライラック ノクターン）

LILAC NOCTURNE

さいとうちほ傑作集⑦

少コミ フラワーコミックス

さいとうちほ

フラワーコミックス

さいとうちほ傑作集⑦

紫丁香夜想曲

LILAC NOCTURNE

さいとうちほ

小学館

FC2637

9784091326379

ISBN4-09-132637-4

C9979 ¥379E

19299790037 91

定価398円 本体379円

雑誌 45136－37 小学館

少コミ フラワーコミックス

■表題作紹介

昭和12年の満州国。日本が自国の覇権のために中国に建設したこの国で、帝国海軍少尉、鬼堂院将臣は、おぼれる中国娘を助けます。同じ頃、麗香王女が姿を消し。

■収録作品

紫丁香夜想曲

ずっと、会っていた

おいてきぼりのハネムーン

やけっぱちヒロイン